

Message Text

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ORIGIN MBFR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182869

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NATO,PARM

SUBJECT:MBFR: MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP IN BRUSSELS

REFS: A. STATE 174763; B. USNATO 4208

1. IN VIEW OF CONSIDERATIONS ADVANCED IN REFTTEL, WE BELIEVE OUR PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP IN BRUSSELS COULD SLIP A WEEK TO A START ON OCTOBER 8 WITH A ONE WEEK STAY IN BRUSSELS. WE UNDERSTAND CANADIAN DELEGATION PLANS TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS ON THAT DATE. WE APPRECIATE REASONABLE DESIRE OF NATO DELEGATIONS
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TO COMPLETE WORK ON ALLIED POSITION PAPER PRIOR TO MEETING

OF AD HOC GROUP. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR PROCESS OF COMPARISON OF OPENING STATEMENTS, WHICH WILL BE GENERAL IN NATURE AND SHOULD NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF ALLIED POSITION, THAT THE LAST TOUCHES BE COMPLETED ON THE ALLIED POSITION PAPER. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT SETTING A SPECIFIC DATE FOR CONVENING OF THE AD HOC GROUP IN BRUSSELS MAY ALSO HELP MOVE THE DRAFTING PROCESS ON THE ALLIED POSITION PAPER IN NATO.

2. WE DO CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE AD HOC GROUP SET OCTOBER 15 AS A TARGET FOR ITS FIRST MEETING IN VIENNA. THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE DONE WITH REGARD TO MATERIAL ARRANGEMENTS, COMPARISON OF OPENING STATEMENTS AND REVIEW OF POSSIBLE INITIAL SOVIET TACTICS, AS WELL AS MAKING FIRST CONTACTS WITH EAST THAT OCTOBER 15 IS THE LATEST FEASIBLE DATE FOR START IF ALLIES ARE TO MAKE SMOOTH BEGINNING OF TALKS ON OCTOBER 30. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT FOR THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTICIPATING ALLIES TO BE SEEN TO MAKE FORCEFUL, EFFECTIVE START OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE CONSIDERABLY GREATER PUBLIC AND MEDIA INTEREST CAN BE EXPECTED THAN FOR PREPARATORY TALKS. MISSION SHOULD THEREFORE PRESS FOR DATES OF OCTOBER 8 AND 15 AS INDICATED.

3. WITH REGARD TO WILLOT'S SUGGESTION ON THIS TOPIC, WE PREFER THAT AD HOC GROUP RATHER THAN SPC COMPARE OPENING STATEMENTS AND MAKE POSSIBLE REVISIONS SINCE THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP WILL BE THOSE WHO ACTUALLY DELIVER THE STATEMENTS. AD HOC GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD BE INTIMATELY ACQUAINTED WITH THE ARGUMENTATION OF EACH ALLY AND ITS POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE SOVIETS.

4. IF ALLIES SUPPORT OUR SUGGESTION IN SEPTEL THAT AD HOC GROUP MAKE REGULAR REPORTS TO COUNCIL, WE COULD AS A PRACTICAL MATTER FOREGO INITIAL MEETING IN BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO MAKE OCTOBER 15 DEADLINE IN VIENNA ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDER THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT OF CONVENING IN BRUSSELS WOULD BE FAVORABLE ONE AND THAT MOST ALLIES WOULD DESIRE IT.

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5. NATO CAPITALS ARE REQUESTED TO DRAW ON THIS MESSAGE AND ON REFTTEL A IN ORDER TO FAMILIARIZE CAPITALS WITH OUR PROPOSED CALENDAR AND GAIN THEIR SUPPORT FOR IT. WE CONTINUE TO PREFER OCTOBER 2 STARTING DATE IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE FEASIBLE.

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